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CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE IN FULL

12 December 1975

JFK ACT
RELEASE

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: James Earl Ray
#541 245

1. On 12 December 1975, Walter Elder of the Review Staff asked for a file check on James E. Ray, in response to an informal inquiry from Senate Select Committee Staff member Patrick Shea. The SSC is studying FBI activities, including the King assassination and the recently publicized Hoover/King controversy.

2. The bulk of Ray's file consists of news media material. There are two State Department cables reporting information on his extradition from England and two memoranda regarding Ray's first lawyer, Arthur J. Hanes. (Hanes was a confidential correspondent for the Office of Security from 1952 to 1959 and was on the OGC cleared Attorney Panel in 1961. He was identitied in news media as a former contract employee of CIA.)

3. Mr. Elder will advise Shea of the above, and the fact that CIA had no file on Ray prior to the King assassination. A formal request is not expected and no further action appears necessary at this time.

John M. Reeves, Jr.
John M. Reeves, Jr.
Security Analysis Group

JMR,Jr:hjd

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